

the age received in the orphan asylum (eight to seventeen years) would exceed twenty to twenty-five; they could be cared for at a *per capita* of \$100, and be made self-supporting in a few years. Now they cost the counties from \$40 to \$85 *per capita*, and are necessarily growing up in the life and with the habits of the imbecile and despairing inmates of the old "poor-house," now entitled Home—growing up, it is to be feared, in such degradation as to finally emigrate to the jail, and in old age back to their early and familiar retreat—always a weight and burden to society. The colored children are more easily placed in private families as workers on farms, and grow up with less conscious degradation; in truth, their condition practically is far better than that of the poor white orphan in the county "home."

It is gratifying to note that the census obtained of the insane in county jails, in the homes and residing in the several counties, as reported by the officer best acquainted with every portion of each county, exhibits a smaller number in each instance than has been estimated from sources, it is to be presumed, less direct and official: but I regret to say that a margin of uncertainty exists by reason of the inability of Sheriffs to give the number in private homes.

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIENNIAL REPORT.

The report of the Board for 1891, including the valuable report of the Chairman, Dr. Charles Duffy, to the Governor, was given to the Public Printer in November (separate copy being made from that in the files of the executive office), and the proof has been carefully followed through the press. It is now complete, but too late for the purpose cherished of sending to members-elect for the General Assembly. The printer has given assurance that by January 15 the report for 1892 can be completed and bound in the same volume, thus making the resumé complete. I respectfully request your instructions as to its distribution, and call attention to the necessity of postage for this object.